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## TCU back has world at his feet

Davis hopes NFL, Heisman in future

By DENNE H. FREEMAN  
 AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH — The world is finally taking some nice turns for TCU running back Kenneth Davis. It hasn't been that long since Davis packed up and quit the thing he did the best — play football.

Now he has a \$1 million Lloyd's of London insurance policy against a career-ending injury — which cost \$8,500 of his family's money — and his promise is such that, at this time next year, he'll be making perhaps \$1 million a year somewhere in the NFL.

If he does, the first thing he's going to buy is a house big enough to hold his 11 brothers and sisters and 35 nieces and nephews — at the same time.

Davis, the senior Horned Frog All-American, led the nation last year in yards per carry.

He also is seen as the savior of a program some in the Southwest Conference considered down-and-out.

"If Kenneth Davis wins the Heisman Trophy, he can say he did it at a no-name school with a no-name program because that's what it was when he came here," TCU Coach Jim Wacker said. "If he wins it, he'll deserve it more than any player in the history of football."

Davis, who learned about hard times at the tender age of five picking cotton under the unforgiving Texas sun, made himself into an All-State running back at Temple High School.

Nebraska came a courtin', but Davis rebelled when Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne couldn't promise a starting position his freshman year.

So the impatient Davis decided to go to downtrodden TCU.

"No other Southwest Conference school believed in me," Davis said.

Things didn't work out at first, when Davis reported 30-pounds overweight. Kicked mercilessly by his TCU teammates, he left in a huff. But Davis came back when his mother gave him a frosty reception at home.

Nothing has come easy for Davis. "It's hard to believe what's happened to me since my freshman year," he said. "I came back, worked hard, then Coach Wacker took over two years ago. I thought, 'Here we go. Here comes this guy with all the rules.'"

But Wacker, with his fast-striking veer offense, hard-driving discipline and emotion proved to be just the tonic Davis needed to develop his potential.

The 5-foot-11, 212-pound Davis had seven runs from scrimmage of more than 50 yards last year and seven more over 30. He averaged

See Davis, page 9



dp 1985

## '85 Longhorns to put 'foot' in SWC's mouth

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas Coach Fred Akers said Wednesday he hopes the Longhorns' kicking game can buy enough time for the offense and defense to develop into a winning football team.

"Our kicking game is the single strongest phase of our football team," Akers told writers on the last stop of the Southwest Conference Press Tour.

Akers mentioned punter John Telschick, who averaged 41.3 yards net on 67 punts last season; place-kicker Jeff Ward, who led the team in scoring with 63 points; and the center on deep snaps, Terry Steelhammer.

"With added speed and quickness on kick return teams, we have a chance to be one of the top ones in the country. It is the most solid, strongest part of our football team," Akers said.

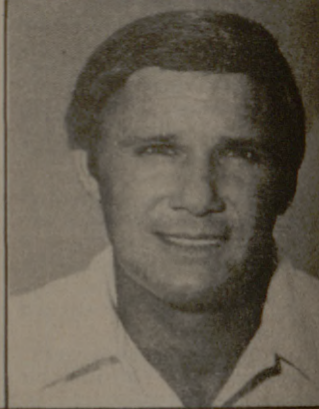
Akers said of his offense, which had 46 turnovers during the regular season last year, "I think we've got a chance to be a pretty good offensive team if we can keep our people on the field."

Akers said injuries decimated Texas so much last year that the Longhorns never fielded the same starting lineup two games in a row. Texas faded to 7-4-1 after a 6-0-1 start that included a victory over Auburn and tie with Oklahoma.

Akers said for the first time in at least 15 years Texas would start the season without a "dominating type"

"Our kicking game is the single strongest phase of our football team. At least four teams (in the Southwest Conference) have more proven talent. There is no such thing as Texas being overlooked. We're not going to sneak up on anyone."

— Texas' Fred Akers



defensive lineman.

He said 11 players were being tried at defensive tackle in hopes of finding four to share the position.

"That position and linebacker, with the exception of Ty Allert, are the two biggest areas of concern, where we've had to revamp."

Akers said, however, "I promise you, our defensive tackles will come on to make you notice them. I just don't know which ones right now. We are not without defensive tackles."

The only tackle with game experience is 254-pound Chalmer Adams and Akers said he has been "hot and cold. We need for him to stabilize and play at a top level all the time."

Akers, in his ninth season at

Texas, was asked if he had started the season with so many questions on defense, and he said "It's been a while."

But he added, "I really think it's a matter of time. I think we'll be ready to go when the time comes."

Asked about preseason rankings that placed Texas below several other teams in the Southwest Conference, Akers said, "I can't argue with that. At least four teams have more proven talent."

Akers said the low ranking would not help Texas.

"There is no such thing as Texas being overlooked," he said. "We're not going to sneak up on anyone."

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